

Davidsohn now receives full credit for the section on erythroblastosis, and this has been suitably brought up to date. Meyer Perlstein, the well-known pediatric neurologist, has contributed a short chapter on perinatal brain injury, with particular emphasis on cerebral palsy, and Honoria Acosta-Sison has expanded the excellent discussion of hydatidiform mole and choriocarcinoma. Helene Deutsch's chapter on the psychology of pregnancy has been replaced by a similar essay written by the late Flanders Dunbar.

Near the end of the book is a very short but rather fascinating chapter by the late Herbert Schmitz. Entitled "Moral Problems," it is a brief discussion of the views of the Catholic Church on such matters as abortion, destructive operations on fetuses, operation for ectopic pregnancy, birth control, and artificial insemination. This should be read by all house officers who have not had occasion to acquaint themselves with Catholic doctrines that often influence obstetric and gynecologic decisions and practices.

Obviously one cannot in this setting review in depth a book of more than a thousand pages covering every facet of obstetrics and related problems, nor is there need to do so for a volume known to all workers in its field. Certainly Greenhill's text is still amongst the top three American efforts, but one gets the impression that to some extent it has gradually taken on the flavor of a reference work rather than the homespun quality of an undergraduate textbook that it had in DeLee's time. Perhaps this is good, even inevitable, as more and more information is added to the hard core of what we used to call obstetrics.

CHARLES E. McLENNAN, M.D.

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DISEASES OF THE NEWBORN—Alexander J. Schaffer, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, with a section on Neonatal Cardiology by Milton Markowitz, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics; both of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, and Pediatricians to the Johns Hopkins Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1960. 878 pages, illustrated, \$20.00.

Doctor Schaffer's extensive experience of almost thirty years of caring for newborns at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Wonani Hospital of Maryland and the Johns Hopkins Hospital is well presented by this book. It is a comprehensive and authoritative volume on "Neonatology"—a word coined by Doctor Schaffer to describe the art and science of diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the newborn. There are 214 case summaries incorporated into the text to illustrate in a practical and realistic way the facets of differential diagnosis and of treatment. Illustrations are numerous and of excellent quality. References are adequate and up-to-date.

Centers caring for newborns and physicians responsible for their welfare will find this book well worth while.

WILLIAM C. DEAMER, M.D.

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MOSTLY MURDER—Sir Sydney Smith, C.B.E., LL.D., M.D. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Edin.), Emeritus Professor of Forensic Medicine, Edinburgh University. Formerly Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Rector of Edinburgh University. With a foreword by Erle Stanley Gardner; David McKay Company, Inc., 119 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y., 1960. 318 pages, \$4.95.

Sir Sydney Smith, one of the first medico-legal experts of our time, has prepared his autobiography to consist primarily of recounting the events and his role in a number of celebrated criminal cases.

As a pioneer in the field he takes just credit for bringing scientific crime investigation to the fore, particularly in its medical aspects. He simultaneously heaps repeated scorn on his arch rival and colleague Sir Bernard Spilsbury, a

pathologist of renown in England. So blunt is this condemnation over Spilsbury's possible errors in cases where both men gave testimony in the courts, that one cannot but wonder that the acrimony in this rivalry would not have waned somewhat after Spilsbury's death. From reading the book, presumably, Sir Sydney Smith did not err at any time.

Despite this, the book presents interesting facets of cases that make fairly satisfying reading. To the person interested in forensic science, the book holds little of technical value that he would not have gathered in other reading. To the casual reader, interested in murder-mystery type material, this book would prove to be worth while, although laborious reading. The book did not prove to be one not easily put down before finishing.

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LEUKOCYTE ANTIGENS AND ANTIBODIES—Roy L. Walford, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of California School of Medicine, Los Angeles. Grune and Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N.Y., 1960. 182 pages, \$6.75.

This book is a comprehensive compendium of available information on leukocyte immunology, exclusive of the role of leukocytes in the passive transfer of delayed hypersensitivity and the role of the leukocyte in antibody transport and synthesis.

The author has first-hand experience in practically all features of the problem which he covers, so that his analysis of data is particularly meaningful and critical. Of outstanding value to students and investigators in the field is his detailed description of techniques for the study of leukocyte antigens and antibodies. Included are methods of collection of leukocytes, fractionation into various types, preservation of cells, and immunologic techniques for demonstrating antigen-antibody reactions. The comparative value and meaning of results obtained by various workers using different techniques are assessed, with particular emphasis on the antiglobulin consumption test, which, in the author's opinion, is "the most important technical advance since the development of the leuko-agglutinin test."

The aspect of immuno-hematology covered in this work is among the most controversial and technically difficult. One cannot escape the feeling, after studying the subject, that the true significance of many present concepts of leukocyte immunology will be radically changed as methodology progresses. It is refreshing, therefore, to find that the author of this work stresses the errors and pit-falls in the field and avoids formulating broad schemes relating this or that laboratory finding to clinical disease. For example, he points out that the relationship of leukocyte antibodies to leukopenic states is far from clear in that a significant percentage of cases do not demonstrate antibodies, while in some cases where antibodies are present, leukopenia does not exist. One of the few clinical phenomena, that can be unquestionably related, is the high frequency of leukocyte antibodies in patients receiving multiple transfusions. Even here, however, individuals with a high titer of leukocyte antibodies do not always incur the pyrogenic reaction after transfusion which has been attributed to leukocyte antigen-antibody reactions. Also emphasized is the difficulty in establishing the specificity of leukocyte agglutination by serum containing red-cell antibodies, the need for avoiding certain pathological leukocytes and sera as test systems, and the difficulty in interpretation of leukopenic responses *in vivo* as meaning leukocyte antigen-antibody reaction.

A separate chapter on the L-E phenomenon is of considerable interest since it draws together the present thinking on the meaning of the phenomenon. It is clear that this activity involving nuclear damage and phagocytosis is distinct from the leukocyte antigen-antibody reactions as de-